

100.3, no. 6

PENNSYLVANIA DEFENSE COUNCIL NEWS

ISSUED BY THE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

January 17, 1944



Harrisburg, Pa.

Vol. 3, No. 6

Block Leaders Start Nutrition Survey

COUNTY CHAIRMEN MEET JAN. 25 TO MAP POLICY

County Council of Defense chairmen have been summoned to a meeting in Harrisburg, on Tuesday, January 25, to consider revisions in the Protective Services training program made necessary by the Army's announcement that blackouts are to be held not oftener than once every three months.

Schools Collect 3 1/2 Million Cans

Schools in 53 counties reported collections of 3,316,537 tin cans during Dec., the opening month of Pennsylvania's six-months School Salvage contest. The highest school in each county, based on per-pupil collections, was awarded a handsome flag by the SCD.

Reports were received before the Jan. 4 deadline from 629 schools. Reports from 158 other schools totalling 494,402 tin cans were received too late to be counted.

Colley S. Baker, SCD Salvage Secretary, said the first month's totals were very gratifying and predicted that practically every school will be included in the January returns.

County Leaders Keep Men Active

In the face of a warning by SCD Director Hutchison that Civilian Defense work will get harder and harder, Commanders and Chief Air Raid Wardens at a meeting in Harrisburg Dec. 9 mapped plans to keep their forces busy and alert.

Dr. Hutchison pointed out, as he did later in a Christmas message to local leaders, that "the first flush of enthusiasm" has passed and the inclination is "to relax—and be caught off base, as has happened so often in wars of the past."

To offset this, suggestions were made for a recheck of post areas by the wardens, holding of mass meetings and inter-post activities, and energetic promotion of Fire Guards.

While the new blackout policy will have little effect on the basic pattern of Civilian Protection in this State, it is advisable, said Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison, SCD Executive Director, to draft a new strategy to keep the Defense Corps in readiness for any enemy action or home front disaster.

Need Adaptations

"This State had already left the calling of blackouts entirely to the Army, and instituted a monthly mobilization of Civilian Defense forces," he explained. "Hence, we will need only adaptations in our program."

He emphasized that the Army announcement called for a continuation of Protective Services and pointed out that the SCD had already determined, at a special meeting presided over by

(Cont. on page 2, col. 2)

BLOCK QUERIES

Questions to be asked by Pennsylvania Block Leaders in the current state-wide survey are:

1. How do you plan your meals to be sure that all of your family are getting the right food?
2. Would you use information on meal planning if it were simple and made to fit the size of your family?
3. Have you ever attended classes on foods and nutrition? Where? At school or in a special course.
4. Did you have a vegetable garden in 1943? Size of plot.
5. Did you can or otherwise preserve fruits and vegetables?
6. What items of food, clothing, or household electrical equipment which you really need and can afford to buy are not available?
7. What is your worst shopping problem?
8. Are you processing your tin cans?
9. Have you any waste fats to spare?

W.E.R.S. IS TESTED

Walkie-talkie sets and mobile stations were used by Philadelphia Council of Defense in a recent test of its War Emergency Radio Service system. Police Inspector Thomas P. Burns directed the two-hour exercise during which 150 volunteers sent scores of test messages for pick-up by six Control Center stations.

Ask Housewives Nine Questions To Aid New Program

In their most important assignment to date, Block Leaders throughout Pennsylvania are finding out for the SCD this month the type of nutritional information which housewives need and desire.

Three questions dealing with meal planning and nutrition, supplemented by six other questions relating to salvage, victory gardens and consumer problems, have been sent to local Councils of Defense for use in a door-to-door survey by the State's 45,000 Block Leaders.

Wardens To Help

The answers obtained by Block Leaders will be tabulated locally and submitted finally to Mrs. Worthington Scranton, SCD Commander of War Services. In 26 counties that do not have Block Leaders it is expected that wardens and other volunteers will make the canvass.

"Our primary purpose in undertaking this survey," said Mrs. Scranton, "is to determine practical ways in which our new Nutrition Program can help housewives improve wartime

(Cont. page 2, col. 1)

RADIO ENLISTED

The War Services branch of Civilian Defense will be further popularized in Pennsylvania by a series of weekly radio broadcasts now being arranged by the SCD. A network of about 10 stations will be used.

Starting on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 5:30 p.m., the series of 15-minute broadcasts will continue for a period of nine weeks, probably at the same hour each week. All phases of the War Services will be covered.



Victory Garden pictures are slightly out of date in January but we can't refrain from printing this view taken at the Wheatland community plots in Lancaster. Note the "Victory Lane" marker.

STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

GOVERNOR EDWARD MARTIN
Chairman
JOHN C. BELL, JR.
Lieutenant Governor
G. HAROLD WAGNER
State Treasurer
F. CLAIR ROSS
Auditor General
WM. S. LIVENGOOD, JR.
Secretary, Internal Affairs
ROBERT M. VAIL
Adjutant General
Vice-Chairman
CHARLES H. EALY
President Pro Tem. Senate
IRA T. FISS
Speaker of the House
MRS. WORTHINGTON SCRANTON
WEBSTER NEWTON JONES
WALTER H. ANNENBERG

RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON
Executive Director
A. BOYD HAMILTON
Secretary and Deputy Director
The DEFENSE COUNCIL NEWS is published by the State Council of Defense, Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa. Communications should be directed to R. V. Wall, director of publicity.

County Chairmen Meet

(Cont. from page 1)

Governor Martin last month, that all services must be maintained in Pennsylvania until the war is won or until the Army pronounces them unnecessary.

A plan of procedure stressing disaster work and some type of periodic drill is being prepared by the SCD for discussion at the January 25 meeting. This meeting will be held in the Capitol, starting at 2 P.M.

Well Organized

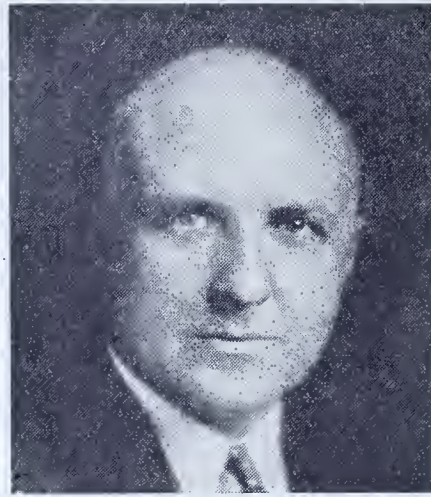
The new blackout policy was announced jointly by the Army and the OCD on January 12 and was adopted to cut down interference with war production and because "most communities are sufficiently well organized to cope with such emergencies as can now reasonably be anticipated."

In the interior of the country all practice blackouts and alerts were banned, but one practice every three months, to be held on Sundays, was authorized for coastal areas, including Pennsylvania.

The announcement came on the day following Pennsylvania's second Army-called blackout within a month. This blackout, the 16th that has been held in the State, was carried out very successfully. Some confusion had been noted during the previous blackout ordered by the Army on December 14.

Critical Area

Pennsylvania's 630,000 Defense Corps members have been given plenty of cause to keep



Judge Joseph A. Richardson (above) is Director of War Services for Allegheny County Council of Defense. Seven committees are under his supervision, and he also heads the Service Corps.

on their toes. This State was classified in an OCD directive last month as one of the nation's "critical areas" where air raid protection forces must be kept at full strength. Interior states were classified as non-critical.

On Christmas Day a confidential alert was ordered by the Eastern Defense Command upon receipt of information of possible air attacks on eastern cities, including Philadelphia. No sirens were sounded.

An announcement by Secretary of War Stimson on January 13 that military establishments in the coastal areas are being reduced in order to augment offensive forces overseas, also placed a bigger burden of responsibility on Civilian Defense personnel.

Victory Gardens Win New Luster

Late reports from several areas of the State have lent additional luster to Pennsylvania's 1943 Victory Garden record.

Dauphin County's Victory Garden chairman, Mrs. Carey O. Miller, reported 33,000 gardens and added that 17 communities had perfect records, with a garden for every home. **Harrisburg** had 2,665 neighborhood plots, compared to 1,247 in 1942.

In the **Bethlehem** area, gardeners tilled about 10,000 plots to exceed the quota set, and **Berks** County, with approximately 20,000 gardens, harvested between 4 and 5 million pounds of vegetables.

Canning reports have been equally bright. The **State College** conservation kitchen served 190 housewives who canned 7386 jars of produce and dried 1571 pounds of vegetables. **Williamsport's** two kitchens reported 1765 jars of food canned and 631 pounds dried.

Local committees were asked during the past month to set up their 1944 canning kitchens this winter so that they will be free to devote full energies to production and canning during the growing season. Requests for canning retorts should be sent to the SCD without delay.

The entire State had an estimated 1,400,000 gardens in 1943 out of a national total of 20,000,000.

Mobilization Is Rated A Success

The second monthly mobilization of Pennsylvania's Citizens Defense Corps was held Saturday night, Jan. 15, on the heels of a strikingly successful mobilization a month earlier.

Under a new plan of mustering and inspecting only a part of the Defense Corps in each mobilization, the units singled out for Jan. were Wardens, Fire Guards and Messengers.

The Dec. mobilization was marked by a big turnout of personnel, public demonstrations of equipment in many cities such as **Pittsburgh**, **Philadelphia** and **Allentown**, and rigid inspections of men and equipment. In nearly every community leaders who made the inspections reported that the Defense Corps was in fine shape, ready for any emergency.

AT NEW LOCATION

Headquarters of **Delaware** County Council of Defense has been moved from a business building in **Media** to the County Court House.

Block Leaders Start Survey

(Cont. from page 1)

nutritional standards in the face of current food problems. The other questions to be asked will give us valuable information for other phases of the general War Services program."

Dr. Mack Named

The Nutrition Program is in charge of Dr. Pauline Beery Mack, of Pennsylvania State College, who has made extensive studies in Pennsylvania showing that nutrition habits are faulty even in higher income classes.

Other members of her committee are: Mrs. E. A. Van Valkenburg, Mrs. H. B. Eliason, Dr. Warren B. Mack and Mrs. Conway Zirkle, all members of the SCD staff; Dr. Pauline Sanders of Indiana, representing home economics teachers, and Mrs. Anna Bowes, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Nutrition Council.

This committee, Mrs. Scranton explained, will plan state-wide nutrition activities to be carried out by existing local committees, such as Victory Garden and Consumer. Local Councils of Defense are not being asked to name any new committees.

It was emphasized that local committees undertaking nutrition activities will coordinate their work with Parent-Teacher, Red Cross and Nutrition Council groups so that there will be no duplication of effort.

ON HONOR ROLL

Eight counties won places on the Salvage Honor Roll by going over their tin can quotas during Oct. They were: **Northampton**, **Lebanon**, **Tioga**, **Lycoming**, **Clarion**, **Erie**, **McKean** and **Warren**.

Civilian Defense Leaders



Leonard B. Keck (left) is Chairman of Westmoreland County Council of Defense and also is the County Controller. **Rev. E. L. Bottiger** (right) is Chairman in Union County. He is the pastor of Buffalo Lutheran Parish.



C. D. UNITS SEE ACTION AT 5 FIRES

Local Civilian Defense personnel in **Franklin, Stroudsburg, Allegheny County and Philadelphia** have added new entries to the fast-growing record of disaster service rendered by C.D. in Pennsylvania.

At Franklin, 500 auxiliary police and fire personnel controlled thousands of spectators and extinguished fires on adjoining roofs when a \$300,000 blaze destroyed the six-story Park Hotel on Jan. 2. City Council praised the volunteers in a special resolution.

C.D. medical units at Stroudsburg helped to prevent serious loss of life at a fire in the Monroe County Home on the night of Jan. 3. Only one death resulted.

Other Fires

The incidents in Allegheny

County also involved fires. Forty C.D. volunteers helped firemen control an apartment house blaze in **Dormont**, while at **Emsworth** an Air Raid Warden, James F. Yetter, checked the flames in a neighbor's home until firemen arrived. In Philadelphia, C.D. units saw action at a five-alarm apartment fire.

Meanwhile, several other disasters have come to light that were not included in the list of more than 20 published in the last issue of DEFENSE COUNCIL NEWS.

Two of these incidents were in **Marcus Hook, Delaware County**. On Aug. 1, 1943, 28 auxiliary police took charge of traffic after a severe explosion at a local plant of the Sun Oil Co. A month later fire swept the Pure Oil Co. grease plant

and threatened an adjoining building where 100,000 barrels of high-test gasoline were stored. Wardens, auxiliary police and firemen worked more than ten hours at great peril in a successful fight to keep the fire from spreading.

Another incident previously unreported was the service of **Philadelphia** auxiliary police and wardens at a huge fire involving 27 buildings, Feb. 8, 1943. The volunteers were on the job more than 17 hours.

Civilian Defense personnel in **Potter and Cameron Counties** assisted in rescue and rehabilitation work during a flood there in July, 1942. The Control Center at **Coudersport** was activated for three days.

HANDYMAN NOT NEEDED; WOMEN CAN FIX IT

In submitting the first request for Home Mechanics Course certificates, Miss Miriam Lark, Consumer Chairman of **Monroe County Council of Defense**, dispelled any doubts that the candidates had earned their awards.

"We have learned," she said in a letter to Mrs. Conway Zirkle, SCD Consumer Chairman, "to tie underwriters knots in fixing electric cords and soldered wires together in order to make a cord longer. We have fixed all sorts of lamp sockets and electric sewing machine motors. Last Thursday night we tore down a sander, removed the grease and gasket, filed the armature, repacked it with grease, replaced gasket, put on the sanding belt and saw that it was in first class condition and ready for use at any time. Next time we meet, we expect to have an electric sweeper, the motor from a small washing machine and an airflow motor to grease and put in class 1 condition. We have sharpened knives and scissors, worked on toasters and done more things in the electric line than I ever thought existed."

306 RECRUITS FOUND BY BLOCK LEADERS

Another success for **Allegheny County Block Leaders** has been achieved with the signing up of 306 Nurses' Aide candidates and 1623 students for Home Nursing classes in a door-to-door canvass that started last October.

The Block Leaders, headed by Mrs. S. A. Schreiner, also signed up 48 Cadet Nurses and obtained the addresses of 64 inactive nurses. The 306 Nurses' Aides enrolled were enough to fill the current classes for the entire period. The campaign was conducted in close cooperation with the Red Cross.

Men Volunteers Help Hospitals

A good pattern for "Hospital Men Volunteers" has been set by **Jewish Hospital, Philadelphia**, and the **Abington Memorial Hospital**.

At Jewish Hospital, 42 men were trained to serve as orderlies. They assist in the accident ward, push stretchers and run elevators. A new class of 50 men is now being trained.

The Abington plan involves 26 volunteers who work in the laundry and another 70 men from Civilian Defense units who give up one night a week to run elevators, make beds and perform other tasks.

The Hospital Volunteer program is sponsored nationally by **OCD and the American Hospital Association** to solve the severe manpower problem in hospitals.

"Best results have been obtained," said Mrs. Walter Spofford, of the SCD War Services staff, "where the hospital has initiated the project and consulted the local Council of Defense for assistance in recruiting volunteers and publicizing the needs."

RAILROADS SALUTE 'CD' DISASTER UNITS

The following item, which appeared in the Dec. 17 issue of "Civilian Defense Alert," published in Chicago, indicates the value of Civilian Defense work in railroad disasters:

"Because of the 'notable service' rendered in railroad accidents by members of Civilian Defense organizations, the Association of American Railroads has recommended to all railroads that they incorporate such groups into their operational disaster programs."

The Association proposed that local Civilian Defense organizations be notified immediately of any railroad accident and that plans be made to alert the emergency medical services and provide for the speedy transportation of mobile medical teams, ambulances, plasma trucks and medical personnel."

STATE STAFF HAS 17 IN ARMED FORCE

An Honor Roll containing the names of 17 SCD staff members who are now serving in the Armed Forces has been dedicated and placed on display in the State Council headquarters.

The names include A. C. Marts, former SCD Executive Director, who became a Captain in the U. S. Coast Guard last February. The other names are:

William E. Barnes, Louis E. Buckel, Ralph E. Flinn, Eugene Giles, Howard H. Holsberg, Richard Holsberg, Robert Jones, Richard Lank, Richard A. Mehring, William L. Myers, Charles M. Pollock, Jr., Laura Scarnati, Miriam Schlegal, Robert D. Weiss, George R. Welsh, and Charles Winfield.

FAYETTE CHAIRMAN

Eugene Fike has been named Chairman of **Fayette County Council of Defense** to succeed former State Senator Anthony Cavalcante. Fike previously was Chief Air Raid Warden and county commander.



Marie B. De Backer (above) serves as Co-Chairman of C. D. V.O. in Philadelphia. She is an executive in a brokerage firm.

Waynesboro Plan

Meets Opposition

An announcement by **Waynesboro Council of Defense** that it would not participate in any further alerts, except for actual raids or disasters, has brought local leaders into conflict with the SCD.

Legal questions have been referred to the Attorney General for advice, but SCD Director Hutchison has expressed confidence **Waynesboro** will cooperate with the Army and the State, in view of its fine record in Civilian Defense.

Opposing its neighbor's action, **Greencastle** announced it would continue to carry out practices. **Luzerne County Council of Defense** adopted a resolution pledging to the SCD its "loyalty and willingness" for service until the war is won.



Mrs. Winfield H. Cook, a guard at a Philadelphia war plant, and mother of eight children, was selected as the city's "Typical Housewife" during Food Fights for Freedom campaign sponsored by Council of Defense.

Three New Rescue Schools Arranged

Rescue Squad training schools have been arranged by the SCD for **Reading, Erie and Delaware County** following the successful school conducted last Nov. in **Johnstown**.

Dates for the schools, as announced by George Cartwright, SCD Assistant Chief Fire Warden, are: **Reading**, Jan. 18-22; **Erie**, Jan. 24-29; **Delaware County**, Feb. 1-4.

The **Johnstown** school was attended by more than 100 Squad members from all parts of **Cambria County**. Many of the men were already qualified for underground rescue work but had not received above-ground instruction.



Venango County believes in recruiting Fire Guards young. The young lady above is Gail Perry, 6-year-old daughter of the county's Chief Fire Guard Officer.

SEVEN NEW PLANTS WIN SECURITY AWARD

The National Security Award has been conferred by OCD on seven additional Pennsylvania plants, bringing the total to 11 in this State.

The new winners are: Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., Allentown; West Penn Power Co., Pittsburgh; Harrisburg Steel Corp., Harrisburg; Mack Manufacturing Co., Allentown; Widder Brothers, Emmaus; Westinghouse Electric and Mfg. Co., Essington; and Philadelphia Electric Co., Philadelphia.

A Plant Protection Conference held this month at Scranton was attended by 102 persons, according to Ray F. Riegelmeier, SCD Plant Protection Officer.

New Child Care Centers Planned

Nine more Child Care Centers will be opened in Philadelphia by the Board of Education, which has just taken over the 11 Centers operated there by the Council of Defense.

The expanded program will provide facilities for 1400 children, with 30 pre-school and 40 school age children per Center, according to Mrs. Benjamin Ludlow, Child Care Director for the SCD. Use of school buildings will solve the city's problem of where to locate the Centers.

In Pittsburgh also the Child Care Program is under School Board sponsorship and \$34,000 has been granted by the Federal government for 20 proposed Centers.

There are now 23 Centers operating in the State with facilities for 2610 children.

STATE PRAISED FOR CONVOY TRAINING

Pennsylvania is "second to none" in the number and quality of emergency convoy drivers who have been trained by the OCD.

This fact was revealed by Major Gen. U. S. Grant, III, OCD Chief of Protection, in a letter in which he credited "splendid support" given by the SCD, local Councils and both management and labor of transportation companies. Convoy drivers have been trained in 16 areas of the State.

THREE APPOINTED

The following appointments have been announced by Northumberland County Council of Defense: Claude C. Renn, Transport and Traffic Control Officer; Leon Bickle, Chief of Training; and Dr. Chester A. Moore, assistant Medical Officer.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE AIDS NEW WAR LOAN DRIVE

Councils of Defense are giving their full support to local War Finance Committees in the current War Loan Drive in the same way they assisted during the drive last September.

To avoid duplication of effort, C.D. volunteers are canvassing and working under direction of the War Finance leaders. Secretary Morgenthau issued a statement asking the assistance of Civilian Defense.

GEN. HAYES NAMED

Brig. Gen. Philip Hayes has succeeded Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord as Commanding General of the Third Service Command, embracing Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Gen. Reckord was given an overseas assignment.



Fountain Hill, near Bethlehem, is proud of the \$1650 worth of equipment which Civilian Defense workers have installed on the above fire truck, converting it from a bare chassis. An OCD skid pump is mounted on the trailer.

ANTI-BLAB EFFORT PUSHED IN PHILA.

A vigorous Anti-Blab Campaign has been undertaken by Philadelphia Council of Defense in cooperation with Federal agencies and the SCD.

Warning that war information can be safely talked about only after it has appeared in newspapers or on the radio, Judge Harry S. McDevitt, the Council's chairman, said in a radio broadcast on Dec. 27:

"Do you think all the railroad wrecks, fires and unusual catastrophes you read about are accidents? An Army Intelligence Officer stated in court a week ago that there was more sabotage on the Atlantic Coast than on the Pacific. Do you think he would have made such a statement publicly if it were not to warn the public of danger?"

Gen. Grant Lauds

Disaster Record

Major Gen. U. S. Grant, III, Chief of OCD's Protection Branch, warns that the Citizens Defense Corps must not lower its guard "against whatever our enemies may do or whatever may accidentally occur to help them."

In a letter to SCD Director Hutchison and other State Directors, General Grant said:

"While, fortunately, the organization so patriotically formed and trained has not been called upon to meet that worst of calamities that can befall a city, namely, an air raid; it has amply repaid the country in the effective services rendered by Civilian Defense volunteers in various lesser disasters, that have inevitably resulted from special war hazards and war conditions.

"We are thankful that it has been practicable to render such service and that the organization and training gained in Civilian Defense have prevented such disasters from reaching the catastrophic extent and scope that would have made them national disasters and serious blows to the war effort."

WARNS OF LETUP

A decline in blood donations following news of Allied successes could mean "thousands of unnecessary Gold Star Mothers on Armistice Day, World War II," Dr. G. Canby Robinson, National Director of the American Red Cross Blood Donor Service, warned recently.

PHILADELPHIA NAMES McDEVITT CHAIRMAN

Judge Harry S. McDevitt, Executive Director of Philadelphia Council of Defense since June, 1942, has been named Chairman, succeeding Dr. Hubley R. Owen, who resigned to become head of medical services for the city's Board of Education.

Judge McDevitt has devoted the major part of his time to Civilian Defense but has continued to carry on some of his duties as a Common Pleas Court Judge. He also organized the Control Center for the Germantown district and serves as its commander.

Succeeding Judge McDevitt as Executive Director is B. Leo Doyle, formerly Field Director:

CONSUMER PLAN

An effective method of distributing consumer information in rural areas has been worked out by Francis H. Shipman, Northumberland County Consumer Chairman.

Printed material received from the SCD, he said, is placed in post offices, banks, community centers and stores. In larger communities it is distributed also through libraries and Chambers of Commerce.

Councils To Aid

New Inductees

A "test tube" pre-induction meeting was staged in Harrisburg on Jan. 13 to determine whether similar meetings for men aged 18 to 38 should be sponsored by Councils of Defense and school officials in other parts of the State.

Speakers explained induction procedure, allowances for dependents and other details, and films were shown.

A. Boyd Hamilton, Deputy Director of the SCD, made arrangements for the program in cooperation with Selective Service, Army and school officials.